

March 20, 1973

SENATOR WALDRON: Ok. I think the salary guideline set by the President is 5.5% per year. The reason I'm asking for 8% a year for the Court Reporters is that we have felt... two years ago we felt the Court Reporters in Nebraska were substantially below the salary level they should have been at that time, so we asked for a large increase at that time. I think \$3000 and what we got was a thousand or fifteen hundred dollars, something like that, and we didn't think that was enough and so...since the Court Reporters are still, we consider, behind of what they should be getting for the work they are doing, we are asking for the 8% to try to jump them up. Then, if we could continue to set their salary, then I think they should be set at the regular rate as everyone else. But I think they are too low to begin with and that is why we are asking for the 2% more per year than is generally recognized as the guideline set by the President of 5.5% a year.

SENATOR WHITNEY: The only thing I have to say is that I would be happier if we were raising state employees and the Court Reporters at approximately the same rate. We want better state employees, too, as well as better Court Reporters. It would seem to me that to do more nearly what we are doing with the others that the raise should be up to \$14,000 rather than \$14,500.

PRESIDENT: Senator Waldron.

SENATOR WALDRON: Senator Whitney knows I support the salary increases for other state employees and always have and for other officers of the state as well as the Legislature, and if he wants to offer an amendment. We can see. If he wants to cut it down to that and if he wants to offer that amendment, that probably is not too unreasonable, but then if you do not approve the full amount this time, then we have to ask for a larger amount again the following year because we feel we did not get them up to where they should be, and that's the thing, Senator Whitney, and I would be happy to hear any other comments that other members might have in regards to this.

PRESIDENT: Is there any further discussion of the bill? The question is, then, shall LB 162 be advanced from General File to E & R Initial. All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote no. You are voting on the advancement of LB 162. Senator Waldron's bill as amended by the Committee, from General File to E & R Initial. We are voting on the advancement from General File to E & R Initial on LB 162.

SENATOR WALDRON: If you are not voting, I would appreciate it if you would vote one way or another, if you are here.

PRESIDENT: The chair is not going to hold it open very much longer either.

SENATOR WALDRON: Then I would need to ask for a Call of the House, if we're...

PRESIDENT: All right. Clear the Board.

SENATOR WALDRON: Well, wait just a minute, Mr. President. We just lack one now. If we could just encourage one person... there we go. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: I can't understand why it is more painful to vote than it is to have a Call of the House. All right. The clerk will record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 11 nays, 13 not voting.

PRESIDENT: LB 162 is advanced. That brings us up to the General File consideration of LB 162A.

CLERK: Read title. LB 162A.